

Multifamily and Commercial Recycling: It's the Law!

California Recycling Law In Effect July 1, 2012. Please click "Read More" for detailed information.

Information from this this article was originally posted by the [Long Beach Business Journal](#) , by Sean Belk



All California businesses that generate four cubic yards or more of solid waste per week, and multifamily residential dwellings with five or more units are required to start recycling by July 1, according to a new state law passed last year. Cities are also obligated to start implementing education, outreach and monitoring programs of their new mandatory commercial recycling programs by this date.

AB 341, introduced by Assembly member Wesley Chesbro, is considered the state's first official mandatory commercial recycling legislation. The new recycling law, however, does not carry any fines or penalties, but rather gives local jurisdictions the authority to come up with their own rules of enforcement in a "phased in" process. Cities are required to file annual reports on compliance with the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, known as CalRecycle, which is overseeing the statewide regulation. Gov. Jerry Brown officially signed the legislation last year and the final regulation is pending approval of the state's office of administrative law.

In addition, AB 341 sets a statewide goal for 75 percent disposal reduction by 2020. The waste

diversion rate, however, is not a mandate. The state's current 50 percent disposal reduction mandate still stands for cities, counties and state agencies under previous laws.

All businesses and apartments that fall under the law must implement recycling, whether it's reusing waste, separating recyclables, composting waste materials or other waste diversion methods. Athens Services currently transports all of Covina's commercial waste to a Material Recovery Facility, where recyclable materials are sorted and then diverted from local landfills. As a result, Covina businesses and apartment complexes that are serviced by Athens Services are already in compliance with AB 341 and will **NOT** require any additional containers, will not need to sort any materials, and will incur no additional costs.

Athens Services offers free waste stream analyses for their commercial account holders. To receive a free waste stream analysis for your business or complex, please call (888) 336-6100 or visit www.AthensServices.com.

For more information on the City of Covina's programs to assist businesses and apartment complexes with their recycling programs, please contact Environmental Services at (626) 384-5480 or visit the [City of Covina's Environmental Services webpage](#).

Please visit [CalRecycle's Website](#) for more information on California's Mandatory Commercial Recycling Law.

Click below to view our Frequently Asked Questions from Athens Services



California adopts new mandatory recycling laws for businesses and multi-family complexes effective July 1, 2012.

In an effort to increase recycling and meet a 75% diversion goal the State of California has enacted a new law that requires most businesses and multi-family complexes to provide recycling services. AB 341 requires these recycling programs to be instituted by July 1, 2012. However, the City of Covina, together with Athens Service, anticipated this action and recycling services are already included in the commercial service rates. The vast majority of our community will be unaffected by this new mandate as we are already in compliance.

Frequently asked questions:

What businesses and multi-family complexes are affected?

Businesses that generate four (4) cubic yards or more of garbage each week and multi-family complexes with five (5) or more units must provide recycling programs.

Will the mandatory recycling services cost me more?

No. AB 341 will not result in ANY additional costs, since recyclables are currently diverted away from landfills at a Material Recovery Facility.

Will this result in any change in my service?

No. This new legislation will not result in any changes on your part. You will not need to sort out your recyclables from the rest of your waste stream.

What if I have questions?

If you have any questions about how recycling can help your business and the environment, contact Athens Services at (888) 331-6100.



MANDATORY RECYCLING LAW!

Athens has implemented programs to help your City achieve the waste reduction mandates set by California's newest waste management law, AB 341, which mandates that businesses with more than 4 cubic yards per week of service and apartment buildings of 5 or more units have a recycling program in place effective July 1, 2012.

The **GOOD NEWS** is that this new legislation will not result in any changes on your part which will continue to **SAVE YOU TIME, EFFORT and NO ADDITIONAL COST!** You do not need to sort out your Recyclables from the rest of your waste stream. Your entire waste stream is currently transported to the Athens Material Recovery Facility where your recyclable materials (over 30 items) are retrieved from the trash and diverted away from local landfills. The existing program qualifies as the highest level of recycling and is compliant with AB 341 fulfilling your state mandated obligation.

This waste collection and recycling program is the most environmentally sensitive and efficient program available because it reduces the number of trucks on your streets. It also saves you time, money and helps to keep your city **CLEAN and ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE!**

The Athens Advantage:

- You will not need any additional containers.
- You will not need to sort any materials.
- You will have no additional cost.
- Please refer to the storyboard below for a more detailed explanation of the program.



Trash collected is dumped onto the Tipping floor and moved with heavy



equipment onto the Walking Floors toward the processing equipment



where employees and machines will sort out the recyclables.



Once sorted, recyclable materials are moved via conveyor



to the massive baler, where they are prepared



for shipment to foreign and domestic markets.

NOTE: If you have a large quantity of recyclable material(s), and are willing to sort the material(s), you may qualify to be paid for the materials!

Please call us for a FREE WASTE STREAM ANALYSIS!

(888) 336 – 6100

www.AthensServices.com